

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed April 12, 2004.

In the present paper, Applicants have amended claims 8-10 and have canceled claims 1-7, 11 and 12. Claims 8-10 and 13-24 are now presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following remarks.

The Drawings

Thirteen sheets of formal drawings were submitted on April 5, 2002.

The Claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 13-24 are allowed, and that claims 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claims.

Claims 8-10 have been rewritten in independent form. All rejected claims have been canceled.

A fee transmittal sheet authorizing the payment of fees associated with the added independent claims is submitted herewith.

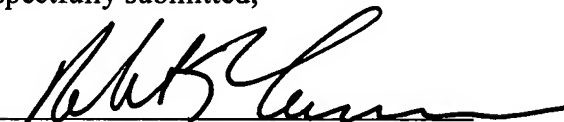
Conclusion

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 8-10 and 13-24 are now in condition for allowance, and earnestly request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present case, the Examiner should not hesitate in contacting the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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